



# Tim Fischer

FELLOWSHIP

## Program Guidelines

**Empowering changemakers**  
in rural and regional Australia





## Program Guidelines

### 1. Eligibility criteria

- 1.1. Applicants must be aged 18 years or older at the time of application.
- 1.2. The Fellowship is open to individuals from all fields and career stages.
- 1.3. Preference will be given to applicants from rural or regional Australia, though this is not mandatory.
- 1.4. Applicants must demonstrate a passion for rural and regional development and align with the objectives of the Country Education Foundation (CEF).
- 1.5. Applicants must agree to represent CEF as ambassadors, including attending events and sharing insights from the Fellowship experience.
- 1.6. Applicants must be a resident of Australia and must not be a direct family member of any person involved as a Fellowship Judge or CEF Board Member.

### 2. Application process

- 2.1. All applications must be submitted online via the official CEF website.
- 2.2. Submissions must include all required materials:
  - A short video (maximum 2 minutes).
  - A written bio (maximum 350 words).
  - Detailed project proposal including a budget outlining how the funds will be spent. (maximum 350 words).
  - Personal and professional references.
  - Optional: Up to three supporting documents (e.g., CV/resume, project portfolio).
- 2.3. Applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM AEST on the advertised deadline date (17 August 2025). Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- 2.4. Applicants must answer all the questions on the application form.
- 2.5. Applicants must confirm that all information provided is true, accurate, and their own work.

### 3. Fellowship details

- 3.1. One recipients will be selected each year.
- 3.2. The recipient will receive funding of up to \$50,000 to be used for education, professional development, or research.
- 3.3. The funding may be applied towards professional development, research activities, travel related to the Fellowship purpose, accommodation, or other agreed-upon expenses. The funds cannot be utilised to subsidise a wage.
- 3.4. Funds will be accessed via a reimbursement on receipt or direct payment of an invoice. Upon the completion of the project any unspent funds will be forfeited.
- 3.5. The Fellowship package must commence within six months and completed within 18 months of the announcement date, unless an extension is granted by CEF.
- 3.6. The Fellowship package is non-transferable either to another person or to a cash equivalent.
- 3.7. CEF reserves the right to change components of the prize package at its discretion. However, any changes will be replaced with another prize of equal or greater value.
- 3.8. Multiple Applications: An applicant can only lodge one application per year, if you are unsuccessful, we encourage you to review your submission and consider applying again in a future round.

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### **4. Recipient obligations**

- 4.1. Recipients are required to:
  - Provide an update of their progress at a quarterly meeting.
  - Submit a report documenting their learnings and outcomes, acknowledging that CEF reserves the right to use the report, presentations, and outcomes for its purposes.
  - Present their insights at the CEF Awards event and other public forums as requested.
  - Acknowledge the Country Education Foundation in any other report or publication arising from this funding.
  - Advocate for rural and regional education.
- 4.2. Recipients must agree to participate in CEF promotional activities, including interviews, photographs, and media coverage related to the TFF.
- 4.3. Fellowship recipients are expected to exercise good judgment when associating their social media profiles with the TFF and the CEF. All comments, posts, and expressions shared on social media should be truthful, respectful, and considerate of others.

### **5. Selection process**

- 5.1. Applications will be assessed by an independent judging panel based on the following criteria:
  - Alignment with the Fellowship's mission and objectives.
  - Clarity and feasibility of the project proposal.
  - Potential impact on rural and regional communities.
- 5.2. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in an interview with the judging panel.
- 5.3. Decisions made by the judging panel are final and cannot be appealed.

### **6. Privacy and data use**

- 6.1. Personal information provided by applicants will be used solely for the purpose of administering the Fellowship.
- 6.2. CEF will not disclose personal details to third parties without the applicant's consent, except as required by law.

### **7. Disqualification and withdrawal**

- 7.1. CEF reserves the right to disqualify any applicant who provides false or misleading information.
- 7.2. Recipients who fail to meet their obligations may forfeit the Fellowship, including remaining funds.

### **8. Amendments and Termination**

- 8.1. CEF reserves the right to modify these terms and conditions at any time. Applicants will be notified of significant changes.
- 8.2. CEF may suspend or terminate the Fellowship program at its discretion, with no liability to applicants or recipients.

### **9. Acceptance of Terms**

- 9.1. By applying, the applicant acknowledges they have read, understood,